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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0559
INFO ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0030
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0033
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS MUSCAT 000675

SIPDIS
STATE FOR NEA/ARP
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: OMAN MEDIA REACTION

¶11. SUMMARY This week in Omani dailies, private "Al Shabiba" ran the first local commentary on Iran's elections, describing protesters as a generation having grown up with poverty and unemployment now looking for change. No outlet made mention of the Sultan's trip to Iran, which had been announced to begin June 28. "Al Watan" and "Oman" continued commentary blaming Israel for impeding peace efforts in the region. On June 27, Arabic government "Oman" ran the Secretary's op-ed on trafficking in persons. END SUMMARY.

"THE REVOLUTION IS AGING"

¶12. On June 27, private Arabic daily "Al Shabiba" (circulation 20,000) commented that the Iranian revolution is "aging" and that voters want change. In the first Omani-written commentary on the Iranian elections, Mohammed al Balushi, former Edward R. Murrow program participant, wrote "Iran: the Revolution is Eating its Children!":

"Protesters in Iran are not merely anarchists who only want to create chaos. They are voters who desire change. The Iranian revolution is aging. What is taking place represents those in Iran who would like to rejuvenate it and who are suffering from increasing poverty and unemployment rates."

"CRIPPLING WASHINGTON'S EFFORT"

¶13. On June 26, private Arabic daily "Al Watan" (circulation 42,000) said that Israel is "crippling" Washington's Middle East peace push, demonstrated by the cancellation of the Netanyahu-Mitchell meeting. According to "Is the Obama Administration Crippled by Israel?!"

"The Arab Ministerial Conference in Cairo adds further credibility to the Arab position, which is to commit to dealing positively with President Obama's proposals to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, America's enthusiasm doesn't seem to be enough. Israeli maneuvers continue, and the cancellation of Netanyahu's meeting with Mitchell, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, is clear evidence that [the] Israeli government is crippling Washington's effort."

"CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE PEACE PROCESS"

¶14. On June 29, government Arabic daily "Oman" (circulation 38,000) called on Israel to clear the way for peace in the "positive climate" created by President Obama. "Israel Trying to Hamper the Positive

Climate" said:

"At a time when Israel is conducting a public relations campaign to stop the positive climate of President Obama's proposal, there is now consensus between the EU and the U.S. It is time for Israel to clear the way for the peace process. It is inevitable that Netanyahu make concrete steps in this direction."

HURTADO